

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 14 of page 22 with the following amended paragraph:

In step ~~[[340]]~~ 350, aggregation mechanisms are compared to the bench mark. In one embodiment of the present invention, three information aggregation mechanisms are compared to the benchmark distribution given by finite equation above by using the Kullback-Leibler measure. In addition, reports are made of the Kullback-Leibler measures, of the “no information” prediction (uniform distribution over all possible states) and the predictions of the best individual. The “no information” prediction serves as the first baseline to determine if any information is contained in the predictions of the mechanisms. If a mechanism is really aggregating information, then it should be doing at least as well as the best individual. Predictions of the best individual serve as the second baseline, which helps to determine if information aggregation indeed occurred in the information market.